GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2348
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011
AGROMETEOROLOGY SERVICES
Rani Killi Krupa

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission of Agricultural Meteorology of World Meteorological Organisation has recommended for strengthening of agrometeorology service and use of advance IT to address agricultural hazards and early warning of farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Considering the challenges caused by weather and climate variability and to assist food production to adapt to climate variability and change; the Commission of Agricultural Meteorology of World Meteorological Organization (CAgM) has developed program which has a critical role to play in sustaining/enhancing the food production. The CAgM − XV session held at Belo Horizonte, Brazil during 15-21 July 2010, updated its Terms of Reference in line with results based management to cope with these challenges and hence has recommended for strengthening of agro-meteorological service and use of advance IT.

India Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Earth Sciences has been rendering district level Agro-meteorological Advisory Service through 130 Agro-Meteorological Field Units which are located with State Agriculture Universities, institutes of Indian Council of Agriculture Research etc. Under the service weather based advisories for different crops and live-stock are prepared and disseminated through various modes of communication including IT. Besides internet/print/mass/visual media in vernacular languages, the information is also disseminated through regional language SMS and IVR on the mobile phones to over 1million farmers across the country during kharif-2010 season.